

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a gas impermeable joint in a ~~fluid~~ fuel fill system, the method comprising:

providing a tube having a metallic barrier layer disposed between an inner plastic layer and an outer plastic layer;

forcing at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer into contact with a plastic surface of a ~~component~~ funnel portion of the fuel fill system;

welding the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer with the plastic surface to form the gas impermeable joint.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~component~~ funnel portion includes a recess disposed therein, the recess being dimensioned to receive an end of the tube, and the plastic surface of the ~~component~~ funnel portion being formed within the recess to contact the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~component~~ funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion, the plastic surface being formed on an outer circumference of the cylindrical protrusion.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~component~~ funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion, the plastic surface being formed on an inner circumference of the cylindrical protrusion.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 0.6 millimeters.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 1 millimeter.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 0.6 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 1 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the inner plastic layer is formed by a first tube, the metallic barrier is formed by an aluminum foil bonded exteriorly about the first tube, and the outer plastic layer is formed by a second tube bonded exteriorly about the aluminum foil; the first tube and the second tube each comprising about 20 percent by weight of EPDM rubber and from about 2 to 9 percent by weight of polybutadiene-maleic anhydride adduct resin.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the tube includes a reinforcement layer bonded exteriorly about the outer plastic layer.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~fluid~~ fuel fill system comprising:
a tube having a metallic barrier layer disposed between an inner plastic layer and an outer plastic layer; and
a ~~component~~ funnel portion in fluid communication with the tube via a joint, wherein at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer is spin welded to a plastic surface of the ~~component~~ funnel portion to form the joint.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 12, wherein the ~~component~~ funnel portion includes a recess disposed therein, the recess being dimensioned to receive an end of the tube, and the plastic surface of the ~~component~~ funnel portion being formed within the annular recess to contact the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 12, wherein the ~~component~~ funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion, the plastic surface being formed on an outer circumference of the cylindrical protrusion.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 12, wherein the ~~component~~ funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion, the plastic surface being formed on an inner circumference of the cylindrical protrusion.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 12, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 0.6 millimeters.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 17, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 1 millimeter.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 12, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 0.6 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 19, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 1 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 12, wherein the inner plastic layer is formed by a first tube, the metallic barrier is formed by an aluminum foil bonded exteriorly about the first tube, and the outer plastic layer is formed by a second tube bonded exteriorly about the aluminum foil; the first tube and the second tube each comprising about 20 percent by weight of EPDM rubber and from about 2 to 9 percent by weight of polybutadiene-maleic anhydride adduct resin.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~fluid~~ system of claim 12, wherein the tube includes a reinforcement layer bonded exteriorly about the outer plastic layer.